

In the matter of BPL:

I would request the commission review the filings of the American Radio Relay League concerning interference to all high frequency band users, not only the amateur service. Services in the frequency areas of BPL usage, including aeronautical and longer distance public safety frequencies, would also be affected--including the utility companies own frequencies used during emergency situations such as restoration of service after storms and other disruptions.

Concerning the actual matter of interference mitigation, the power companies responses to the problems existing now in the power grid also leaves much to be desired. The northeast blackout last year was determined to be caused by a system that had faults in its own communications and detection systems, faults that relate to the matter at hand--because those systems relied on the same type communications medium that BPL would, signaling over the power grid. At the same time, power companies do not now adequately respond to interference problems reported to them now--even if the person reporting the problem zeros in on the location of the problem.

I would urge the commission to not only tighten the existing rules and regulations now in place concerning interference to licensed services, but to also strengthen the regulations that require the power companies who implement BPL to resolve any interference caused by any type faults on the power lines in a more timely manner.

It would prove much too costly to our country and its citizenry to let the power companies and their lobby influence the commission in this all too important manner, for the electromagnetic radio spectrum is indeed a natural resource--one that will only come to more harm by not taking steps to severely limit any interference that may be caused by broadband access through power lines.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely, Mr. Chris J. Smith